

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a web based imaging environment, a method of implementing collated printing depending on the collating capabilities of a printer represented by a destination service, said method comprising the steps of:
 - determining by said destination service the collating capabilities of said printer;
 - accessing said destination service from a user's browser;
 - downloading content from said destination service into said user's browser;
 - retrieving said user's image data; and
 - if said printer supports internal collating, then implementing processing of said user's retrieved image data using said printer in accordance with selected production options; otherwise
 - if said printer does not support internal collating, then printing a first copy of said user's retrieved image data using said printer, then retrieving a second copy of said user's image data and printing said second copy using said printer, and iteratively retrieving and printing successive copies of said user's image data.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying status dynamically during processing of said user's image data, said status display including an indication of the current copy being processed.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said destination service represents a plurality of printers.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said plurality of printers comprises at least two said printers having differing collating capabilities.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said copies of said user's image data are retrieved from said user's identity.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
displaying at user's browser production options for processing said user's image data using said printer, including the option to print and collate more than one copy; and
selecting at user's browser production options for processing said user's image data using said printer, including the option to collate.

7. In a web based imaging environment, a destination service representing a printer, said destination service operable to:

determine the collating capabilities of said printer;

download content into said user's browser;

retrieve said user's image data; and

if said printer supports internal collating, implement processing of said user's retrieved image data using said printer in accordance with selected production options; otherwise

if said printer does not support internal collating, implement printing of a first copy of said user's image data using said printer, then retrieve a second copy of said user's image data and implement printing said second copy using said printer, and iteratively retrieve and print successive copies of said user's image data.

8. The destination service of claim 7 further operable to display status dynamically during processing of said user's image data, said status display including an indication of the current copy being processed.

9. The destination service of claim 7 wherein said destination service represents a plurality of printers.

10. The destination service of claim 9 wherein said plurality of printers comprises at least two said printers having differing collating capabilities.

11. The destination service of claim 7 further operable to display at user's browser production options for processing said user's image data using said printer, including the option to print and collate more than one copy.

12. The destination service of claim 7 wherein said user's image data is retrieved from said user's identity.

13. A system for implementing collated printing depending on the collating capabilities of a printer, said system comprising:

a user's browser;

a destination service representing at least one printer, said destination service operable to:

determine the collating capabilities of said printer;

download content into said user's browser;

retrieve said user's image data; and

if said printer is operable to support internal collating, implement processing of said user's retrieved image data using said printer in accordance with selected production options; otherwise

if said printer is not operable to support internal collating, implement printing of a first copy of said user's image data using said printer, then retrieve a second copy of said user's image data and implement printing said second copy using said printer, and iteratively retrieve and print successive copies of said user's image data.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said user's browser is further operable to display status dynamically during processing of said user's image data, said status display including an indication of the current copy being processed.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein said destination service represents a plurality of printers.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said plurality of printers comprises at least two said printers having differing collating capabilities.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein said user's browser is further operable to display production options for processing said user's image data using said printer, including the option to print and collate more than one copy.

18. The system of claim 13 further comprising a means of web based imaging, said means being interconnected with said user's browser and said destination service.

19. The system of claim 13 wherein said destination service is remote from said user's browser.

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